

# STRUGGLE ★ LA LUCHA

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# U.S. imperialism unleashes global war on workers Time to declare war on capitalism

By Sharon Black

March 10 – One only has to look at who immediately benefits from the war.

As we write, oil and gas billionaires in Texas are clinking their champagne glasses. They are giddy over the price-gouging on gas and oil and the resulting avalanche of profits lining their pockets.

Ditto for the U.S. arms dealers, who drool over the destruction of weapons stockpiles and the rise in their stock prices.

The same is true on the political side.

Biden's State of the Union address before Congress turned into a frenzied war party, including the shameful chanting of "Fund, fund, fund the police" – their bipartisan answer to the Black Lives Matter movement's call for defunding murderous police departments across the country.

And while they weep in their media about the tragic deaths of workers and misery of refugees in Ukraine, not a word was said about the 14,000 people murdered by Ukraine in the Donbass region since the 2014 U.S.-sponsored coup, let alone the rest of the world.

But be assured that through their manufactured tears, they are finding time to celebrate, regardless of how many lives are lost.

Of course, this global war is not a brand new development. Ask the people of Yemen, Palestine, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Somalia, Western Sahara, the Philippines and others who have suffered bombings, sanctions, destruction and death at the hands of the U.S. and the Pentagon – either directly or through proxies.

Sanctions have choked and strangled workers and children in Cuba, Venezuela, Nicaragua, Zimbabwe, Iran, North Korea and dozens of other countries.

But the capitalist celebration may turn out to be short-lived.

This is not the same U.S. imperialism that emerged triumphant from the Second World War, but rather an imperialism with a contracting capitalist economy that faces a new world situation. The potential for this war to become broader should not be lost on anyone. And the onus must be placed at the feet of the U.S. rulers.

What is celebrated today, in an economy marked by runaway inflation, may usher in a more significant global capitalist recession. There is a tipping point where sanctions will become deleterious to Western capitalism, especially if they strengthen the relations between those struggling against the stranglehold of the U.S. dollar on the world market.

Today may become a turning point for imperialism and the world's working class.

## Lessons of Iraq War forgotten

As for the mainstream anti-war movement, it has forgotten the lessons of the Iraq War.

When the first Gulf War started in 1990–1991, with its attendant lies and demonizations, the anti-war movement was split. Significant sections called for "sanctions, not bombs," wanting to distance themselves from the embattled Iraqi government.

It turned out that as murderous as U.S. missile strikes were, more people died from the decade of sanctions that followed, designed to bring the Iraqi people to their knees. It would take a more expansive and continuing war, fueled by the lies of "weapons of mass destruction," to ultimately accomplish that.

Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein was labeled a devil, as one lie after the other mounted to justify



SLL PHOTO

murderous U.S. bombings and the use of depleted uranian weapons.

This writer clearly remembers speaking at a debate against the Gulf War organized by Congressperson Kweisi Mfume, who at that time was a TV host. Mfume supported the war.

In the adjoining room sat a member of the royal family of Kuwait, who was being prepared to go on in a separate broadcast to build up the false narrative of herself as a nurse who witnessed Iraqi troops turning over baby incubators and throwing babies on the floor.

There are similarities but also important differences between that war and the current one.

The imperialists' goal is to plunder Russia's vast resources, just like in Iraq. They were happy,

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even if briefly, when Boris Yelstin was doing their bidding in the 1990s, selling off Soviet assets and restoring capitalism. But it soon became apparent that the capitalist West had no intention to allow another competitor into its ranks; rather they viewed Russia's oil, gas and mineral resources as loot and Russia as a vassal state.

President Vladimir Putin, who followed Yelstin, represented a block to these plans in the same way that Saddam Hussein did in Iraq, regardless of the capitalist character of Russia.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was established as a military alliance to contain and threaten the Soviet Union. So why wasn't it

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# Whose interest does it serve?

By Lallan Schoenstein

*Proverb: a short pithy saying in general use, stating a general truth or piece of advice.*

There are a couple of simple proverbs that have borne the wisdom of their meaning through the ages. Although limited, these two fit current developments in Ukraine.

- Divide and conquer
- Whose interest does it serve?

Everyone who has experienced the evil machinations of a boss who destroys unity between workers understands that the boss needs to “divide and conquer” in order to maintain dominance. Think of the sabotage of last year’s union drive of Amazon workers in Bessemer, Alabama.

Consider the history of the United States. Who benefited from the social construct of racism and why

does it continue to play out in a myriad of lethal oppressions?

The militarization of the U.S. took root well before the U.S. Constitution was written. It began when settlers usurped the land of the original people. These settlers are still honored for stealing the homes of the Indigenous peoples.

The old colonial empires spanning the globe maintained their rule by creating divisions. Think of the history of Ireland.

In India, the seeds of the division between Hindus and Muslims were cemented by British colonialism. When the British were finally driven out, they left their former colony partitioned, with tens of millions displaced and more than a million killed.

Currently the power of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party rests on its campaign against Muslims.

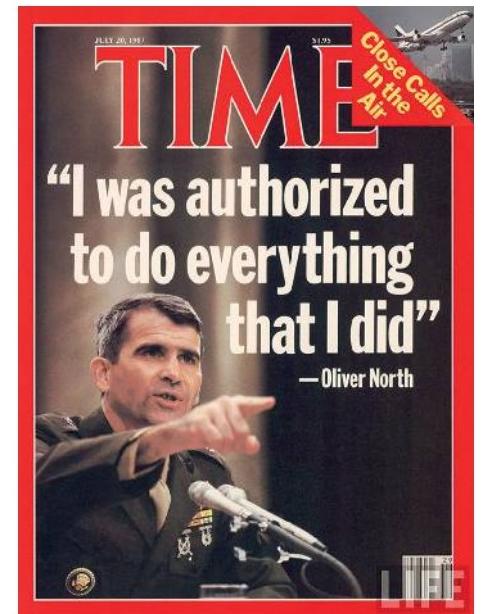
In modern times, an endless list of U.S. imperialist wars have ravaged the world.

Beginning in 1980, the CIA-run contra war was designed to crush the liberation struggle in Central America. It was funded by traffic in guns and drugs. Lieutenant Colonel Oliver North – a member of Ronald Reagan’s National Security Council – was found to be one of those orchestrating this.

Those drugs flooded the streets of U.S. cities in an attempt to stifle the progressive movements fighting for jobs, housing, medical care and education.

Think of how the U.S. media portrays each new U.S. intervention as a “just fight” in wars where the social structures of the targeted countries are totally devastated. Then look at the deteriorating conditions within the U.S. itself.

There was a time when U.S. mil-



itary expansion benefited the U.S. economy. Those who gained small privileges as a result were encouraged to support, or merely ignore, U.S. imperialist wars. Now very few enjoy the spoils, but the greed of the 1% is insatiable.

Much is gained by understanding the dynamics of the class struggle. Nothing is changed without a conscious struggle to change it.

# Stop the landlord attack!

By Stephen Millies

Rents are going through the roof while a tidal wave of evictions has begun. Average rents increased by 14% last year across the United States.

Rents went up in Austin, Texas, by 40%, while in New York City and Newark, New Jersey, they rose by 35%. Rents jumped by 28% in Dallas, 26% in Phoenix, 25% in Las Vegas and 24% in Cincinnati.

Neither broken supply chains nor rising wages – which were canceled by skyrocketing prices – can be blamed for this rent-gouging. Pure capitalist greed is the cause. Even the idiots at Fox News can’t claim the People’s Republic of China or Russian Federation President Vladimir Putin are responsible.

In New York City during 2017, five out of twelve families devoted more than 30% of their budgets to rent. A quarter of families had to pay their landlords more than half of their income. That’s like the tribute that feudal serfs had to fork over.

Now it’s even worse and the result is increased homelessness. Most visible are hundreds of thousands of human beings forced to live on the streets of the wealthiest country on earth.

Much more numerous are the millions of families who have to double-up with relatives. Back in 2010,



The Crown Heights Tenants Union in Brooklyn, N.Y., successfully fought the eviction of the Robinson family. Queen Afua Helen Robinson speaks at a rally outside the home.

PHOTO: JESSY EDWARDS / BK READER

She now lives with her two children in a motel room that doesn’t even have a refrigerator. The \$1,800 a month that Issa Smith has to pay for the tiny place eats up almost all of her disability assistance benefits.

In most places tenants don’t even have the right to a lawyer like criminal defendants do. Families can be evicted for almost any reason, with landlords trying to steal the security deposit.

In New York City, the Right to Counsel Coalition won the right for tenants to have legal representation in 2017. Baltimore and San Francisco have also passed similar laws.

Tenant and community groups also want the New York state legislature to pass the “Good Cause Eviction” bill. Families shouldn’t be evicted just because the landlord doesn’t like them. This law will give basic protections like a union contract does.

Direct action is more effective. The Crown Heights Tenants Union and other organizations stopped the Robinson family home from being stolen. For 18 days in February, activists stood guard at 964 Park Place in the Crown Heights neighborhood of Brooklyn.

The Robinsons were the first Black family on the block. They were victims of an attempted “foreclosure rescue scam” in which they unknowingly signed away the title to their home.

The victory in Brooklyn must be repeated across the country. Evictions and foreclosures must be stopped. Housing is a human right!

the Census Bureau estimated there were 4.3 million families living in these conditions.

This overcrowding is a big reason why Black, Indigenous and Latinx people were two and three times as likely to have died from COVID-19 as whites.

While rents are rocketing, so are house prices. Banksters are committing wholesale robbery by raising interest rates on mortgages. Between 2007 and 2016 these criminals foreclosed on 7.8 million homes.

The investment bank BlackRock wants to get in the action by gobbling up homes. This outfit has \$10 trillion in assets under its control to play around with. That’s more money than the economies of every country except the United States and China.

## Fighting back against evictions

Landlords want to start mass evictions. Many Democrats, like New York Gov. Kathy Hochul, joined with Re-

publicans to end the bans on throwing families out of their homes.

These measures were enacted in 2020 at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Congress and state legislatures only did so because they were afraid of what 20 million suddenly jobless people might do. It was millions of people who marched demanding “Black Lives Matter” that kept these bans in place.

Congress was also forced to spend billions in rental assistance. But millions of tenants never saw any money.

In California’s Santa Clara County – home to San Jose and Silicon Valley billionaires – just 34% of households that applied for help got it. The headquarters of Apple, Alphabet (Google) and Meta (Facebook) are located there. These outfits have a total stock market value of \$5.1 trillion, yet 244,000 of the county’s children live in families who can’t afford basic needs.

Most housing courts operate as eviction mills for landlords and banks. Issa Smith was evicted over a disputed lease with her landlord in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

**URGENT**

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Petition <https://bit.ly/3s1z2uP>

For more information Contact:  
International Leonard Peltier Defense Committee  
<https://www.wholeleonardpeltier.info/>

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# When stopping racist killer cops is needed Biden endorses more police

By John Parker

The Washington Post Fatal Shootings Database reports 7,087 people shot and killed by the police since 2015. Even before we talk about racist police murder in the U.S. we have to say that that is an outrageous number in itself. Why does the U.S. have the highest amount of police killings compared to any other developed country?

It's an indication of repression against working people in general, to discourage any protest against injustice, wage slavery and exploitation and the destruction of our environment.

When you add the fact that Black people are killed at twice the rate of white people we see an even greater problem relating to racism and genocide against Black and Brown youth. This shows why racism and white supremacy are so deadly to our class.

The Washington Post began taking the numbers of killings by police when it realized that the FBI's numbers were only half of the actual shootings in 2014.

More recently, the New York Times published an article titled "More Than Half of Police Killings Are Mislabeled." It reported the results of a study conducted by researchers at the University of Washington and published in the Lancet, the world-renowned medical journal.

The study confirmed that police violence has been grossly underreported for at least four decades.

So, the problem with police reporting was exposed to the world and to the administration of Barack Obama in 2015 by the Washington Post, yet nothing was done to correct it, and it still persists here in 2022.

That parallels the crisis of police killings since 2015 – from the Obama administration through the Trump administration and now the Biden administration – where it has re-



mained steady at nearly 1,000 per year.

Why? Because the problem is systemic. Since racism is an integral part of capitalism, it doesn't matter whether a Democratic or a Republican regime is in power. Racism and racist repression are primary tools in maintaining this system. They are primary tools used to keep the working class divided and weak.

#### Biden and Mayor Adams

Biden's Feb. 3 visit with New York's Mayor Eric Adams means more of the same, or perhaps worse. Adams is a former cop and advocate for continuing police brutality and increasing the already inhumane treatment in New York prisons.

During his visit, Biden said: "Mayor Adams, you and I agree. The answer is not to abandon our streets. The answer is to come together, police and communities," Biden said at the NYPD headquarters. "The answer is not to 'defund the police.' It's to give you the tools, the training, the funding to be partners, to be protectors."

This is a repeat of Biden's callous suggestion in regard to genocidal police killings highlighted by the George Floyd killing in Minneapolis: that the cops should just shoot people in the leg; that the militarized weapons they carry and the funds to buy more of those weapons that terrorize communities of color are not an issue.

Mayor Adams has made reactionary statements in regard to hiding racist police killings, pushing right-wing buttons. He has called for the use of more solitary confinement, which is already being used illegally across the nation – calling it "punitive segregation." He wants more minors to face criminal prosecution as adults, and more.

A UN organization, the Office of the High Commission for Human Rights, last year did a report on racial justice and equality relating to "current racially inspired human rights violations, systemic racism, police brutality and violence against peaceful protests."

The report highlighted four areas

to prioritize to end systemic racism and the violations by law enforcement against Africans and people of African descent. These are, as highlighted on the UN High Commission website:

- STEP UP: Stop denying and start dismantling
- PURSUE JUSTICE: End impunity and build trust
- LISTEN UP: People of African descent must be heard
- REDRESS: Confront past legacies, take special measures and deliver reparatory justice

Nothing that Biden is proposing with his friend, Mayor Adams, addresses these points – just the opposite. It was no accident that Biden, Obama, and especially the fascist former president Trump, have done nothing but enable police murder.

Biden and Kamala Harris refused to even consider taking funds from the police or reorganizing the police to make them less lethal, especially against Black and Brown communities. Barack Obama, during his administration, was approached by Black Lives Matter activists pleading for him to take the military weapons, like assault weapons and tanks, away from local police. He offered only to make sure all cops would have cameras instead – and we've seen how that has not slowed down the murders by cops.

The Democrats and Republicans are given their marching orders from the super-rich who put them in power. Stopping police violence threatens their vital tool to keep in place the status quo of exploitation and racism, so it is not allowed to be discussed in any real way.

It will take a movement specifically against police murder, prioritizing the issue of how racism is used to murder Black and Brown youth, to make any real changes. ■

## U.S. imperialism unleashes global war on workers Time to declare war on capitalism

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dismantled after the counterrevolution in the Soviet Union, German Democratic Republic and other Warsaw Pact countries? Instead, NATO has grown and grown.

But there are also significant differences between Iraq and Russia. Russia has a population of 144 million people. Its landmass is close to 40 times larger than Iraq. Most importantly, it inherited nuclear weapons from the Soviet Union and has developed formidable defenses.

Without these differences, the Russian Federation would likely have already shared the fate of Libya and Iraq.

#### War is continuation of politics by other means

Imperialism forces other countries to defend their borders. Russia not only shares a border in Eastern Europe with Ukraine, but it also shares an extensive 2,615-mile border with China.

These facts are not lost on the People's Republic of China. To weaken Russia, potentially overthrow Putin, in the guise of putting in a more "democratic regime" (meaning friendly to the West), would place China in an untenable military situation.

This also cannot be divorced from the Sept. 15, 2021, trilateral security agreement between the U.S., Britain and Australia, referred to as AUKUS, which included the delivery of a nuclear-powered submarine fleet for Australia. It undercut a deal worth \$90 billion for France. So much for Washington's NATO allies!

At the same time, the United States Africa Command, AFRICOM, was busy involving itself in coups from Mali to Guinea and, more recently, Burkina Faso. Flooding the continent with billions of dollars in military hardware and training through AFRICOM is U.S. imperialism's answer to China's "Belt and Road Initiative," which has taken up building needed infrastructure in Africa.

All of this speaks to the global nature of U.S. imperialism's war in Ukraine. It is aimed not just at Russia and Donbass but at China, Venezuela, Cuba, Iran, Nicaragua and any people on any continent struggling to determine their destiny for themselves.

The unintended consequence is that this may strengthen the ties between China, Russia, Iran and others. This is of no concern in the myopic vision of the imperialist rulers, who are driven by the inner workings of their own capitalist system to expand or die.

#### Fascism, Russia and Ukraine

It is an error to forget the history of fascism and the Nazi advance into the Soviet Union.

Hitler's war – World War II – is etched into the psyche of the Russian people and all former Soviet peoples. The Soviet Union was left to bear the brunt of the German invasion. Hitler's forces were not only bent on exterminating Jews, Roma people and queer people, but also communists and leftists. It was aimed straight at the heart of the fledgling Soviet socialist revolution.

The heroic resistance and sacrifices of the Russian people and their partisan communist allies are undeniable. There is not a single person in Russia today who does not have members of their family tree who died in the fight to stop the Nazis.

The Soviet Union bore the brunt of casualties – over 15% of the population. Belarus lost over a quarter of its people. It's estimated that over 27 million Soviet people lost their lives.

The United States is at the very bottom in terms of World War II casualties. Seldom mentioned is that China lost over 20 million people, far exceeding U.S. losses.

The sympathy of the Russian people for the people of the Donbass republics, Odessa and others repressed inside Ukraine is not contrived but deeply felt. And the mass pressure on Putin on this issue should not be shoved aside.

It is a form of cynical, opportunist intellectualism for some who call themselves anti-imperialists or anti-war to dismiss the fascist threat inside Ukraine. One does not even

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# Three indomitable women

By Lallan Schoenstein

## Standing up against war fever

Rosa Luxemburg, born in 1871, was a Polish and naturalized German revolutionary socialist. She taught Marxism and economics for the German Social Democratic Party in Berlin. Her rhetorical skill was formidable.

After the Russian Revolution of 1905, she and other leaders had tremendous prestige among the workers on the European continent. In the Social Democratic Party of Germany's women's section, she met Clara Zetkin, with whom she became a life-long ally.

Facing the imminent danger of World War I, Luxemburg worked with V.I. Lenin and others on the "Basel Manifesto" that was addressed to the Extraordinary International Socialist Congress held in November 1912.

"If a war threatens to break out," said the resolution, "it is the duty of the working classes and their parliamentary representatives in the countries involved, supported by the coordinating activity of the International Socialist Bureau, to exert every effort in order to prevent the outbreak of the war...."

"In case war should break out anyway," the resolution continues, "it is their duty to intervene in favor of its speedy termination and with all their powers to utilize the economic and political crisis created by the war to arouse the people and there-



Rosa Luxemburg

by hasten the downfall of capitalist class rule."

A key part of the manifesto was the one about using the crisis created by imperialist war to struggle for the abolition of capitalism. That passage was written by Rosa Luxemburg. (See "Bolsheviks and War" by Sam Marcy)

In August 1914, Luxemburg, along with Karl Liebknecht and Clara Zetkin, wrote illegal anti-war pamphlets. They vehemently rejected the German Social Democratic Party's betrayal of its principles in support of funding the war, and called for an anti-war general strike. As a result, Luxemburg and Liebknecht were imprisoned in June 1916 for two and a half years.

After their release, Luxemburg and Liebknecht were captured and executed in Berlin on Jan. 15, 1919, by the Rifle Division of the Cavalry Guards of the Freikorps. Luxemburg's body was flung into a canal.



Manuela Sáenz

## 'Caballeresa del Sol'

Manuela Sáenz was born in 1797 in Quito, Ecuador (then called New Granada). For a number of years she fought by the side of Simón Bolívar in the revolutionary war against Spanish colonialism. They fought to unify South America.

In 1819, when Simón Bolívar took part in the successful liberation of New Granada, Manuela Sáenz joined in a conspiracy to oust the Spanish viceroy of Perú. Sáenz and other pro-independence women conspired to recruit colonial troops from the Spanish royalist defense arsenal in Lima. The action was a success, with

much of the regiment, including Manuela's half-brother, defecting to the anti-Spanish army of José de San Martín.

After proclaiming Peru's independence in 1821, José de San Martín awarded Manuela Sáenz with the highest distinction in the campaign against the Spanish Royalists, the title of "Caballeresa del Sol" – the Order of the Sun of Peru.

During her years of collaboration with Bolívar, Sáenz supported the revolution against Spain by gathering information, distributing leaflets and protesting for women's rights. Her heroism was evident in support of a Creole uprising against Spain.

Sáenz did not feel constrained by gendered conventions of feminine behavior. She dressed in military uniforms and trained for military action.

Bolívar named her "Libertadora del Libertador" ("The Liberator of the Liberator") after she saved his life on Sept. 25, 1828, by confronting assassins intent on killing him.

In Gabriel García Marquez's book about Simón Bolívar, "The General in His Labyrinth," he characterized Sáenz as "astute and indomitable, she had irresistible grace, a sense of power, and unbounded tenacity."

## Great general in war against slavery

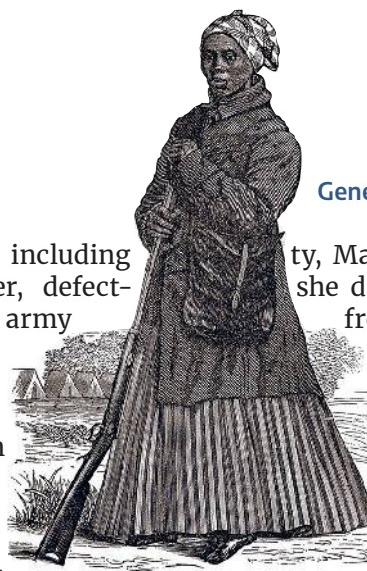
Harriet Tubman, born circa 1821, became widely known as "Moses."

Frederick Douglass said of Tubman, "I know of no one who has willingly encountered more perils and hardships to serve our enslaved people."

Radical abolitionist John Brown characterized Tubman as one of the bravest persons on this continent. She was five feet tall, commanded others with unflagging strength, had brilliant intelligence and carried a rifle.

Tubman was born into slavery on a plantation in Dorchester Coun-

General Harriet Tubman



ty, Maryland. As a teenager, she defended a fellow slave from the violence of an overseer and suffered a heavy blow to her head. That head injury left a grave scar, causing her to experience sudden sleep attacks (narcolepsy) for the rest of her life.

In 1849, when the owner of her plantation died, she was aware that all of the slaves could be sold away from their families to the cotton plantations of the Deep South, where life expectancy could be as short as two or three years. Tubman made the decision to escape.

When she reached Philadelphia, Tubman was, under the law of the time, a free woman. But the passage of the Fugitive Slave Act in 1850 gave legal cover to those who could be paid for her recapture, so she operated with caution.

During a period of 12 years, she returned to Maryland 18 or 19 times, bringing more than 300 people out of enslavement. Because of the Fugitive Slave Act, Tubman was forced to guide her passengers on the Underground Railroad all the way to Canada.

Tubman became known throughout North American 19th-century Black activist circles and freedmen's communities as a fantastically successful "conductor."

In addition to her trips to Maryland to help freedom seekers escape, Tubman developed oratorical skills at abolitionist meetings and, later, at women's rights gatherings.

During the U.S. Civil War against slavery, she earned the title of General Harriet Tubman. She fought as a Union soldier, a scout, a spy, a nurse and a leader of Black and white troops fighting for freedom.

Rewards were offered for Moses' capture — at one time as high as \$40,000, an unimaginable bounty in that era. Tubman was never betrayed. □

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have to go back to 2014, despite that being a mere eight years.

Days ago, on March 2, the U.S. puppet and created folk hero Zelensky named the fascist Aidar Battalion's commander governor of Odessa. Odessa is home to one of Ukraine's historic Jewish communities.

One month before Russia's intervention, the U.S. sent a specially-equipped satellite phone to allow Zelensky direct access to President Biden and, by extension, the Pentagon. He is receiving orders directly from Washington.

Why this is completely glossed over by so many is startling.

Even the shameful, racist sight of African and Indian medical students being blocked and abused by Ukrainians at the border did not stir the kind of protests it should have.

It should indeed serve as a lesson to those inside the U.S. who vehemently opposed the Jan. 6, 2021,

white-supremacist coup attempt in Washington, D.C. The Democratic Party that has no problem quietly and not-so-quietly cozying up to neo-Nazi forces in Ukraine can hardly be depended on to dismantle them at home.

Imperialist-installed dictators and their murderous policies in oppressed countries, the growth of the repressive state apparatuses (the police and military, courts and prisons), including in the U.S., and the growth of neo-Nazi movements internationally, are all intertwined.

Ukrainian fascism, which is not only neo-Nazi but shares a lineage with the original Nazi movement through Stepan Bandera, is real and dangerous.

### Lenin and Second International

In the early years of the 20th century leading up to World War I, the socialist and communist workers' movement, which was strong in Europe, was staunchly anti-war.

But when war was actually declared, it collapsed.

The political agreements and resolutions for comrades to oppose their imperialist governments dissolved under the war fever and patriotic jingoism. Those who did oppose it were jailed, killed or forced into exile.

But V.I. Lenin and his co-thinkers refused to capitulate. These political battles prepared the Bolshevik communist party for the 1917 socialist revolution under the banner of "Land, bread and peace."

Lenin's slogan, "Turn the imperialist war into civil war," originated during this period.

It was not an abstract slogan, but rather a pragmatic preparation for 1917. Without that preparation, the Bolshevik Revolution likely would not have succeeded.

On this International Working Women's Day, it's essential to recognize Clara Zetkin, its founder, and Rosa Luxemburg. They played critical roles along with Lenin in opposing the capitulation of the social democrats.

Both were theoretical leaders in

their own right. Zetkin later became a fighter against the rise of Nazism, and Rosa Luxemburg and her comrade Karl Liebknecht were executed during an uprising of German workers. Their heroism is etched in history.

It is critical for today's movement to go over this history. We refer readers to the Struggle-La Lucha article "Lenin: How to Oppose an Unjust War," Lenin's pamphlet "Socialism and War," and Sam Marcy's book "The Bolsheviks and War: Lessons for today's anti-war movement."

### U.S. war on world's people

This is not a Russian war on Ukraine — or even a war by the fascist-sympathizing oligarchs of Ukraine — but a war by U.S. imperialism on the world's working class.

We dream of a world where people can lay down their swords and where borders separating humanity will dissolve. This can and will happen.

But it will take the dismantling of imperialism and capitalism and the building of revolutionary socialism to make that dream a reality.

Today's first but essential step is to stand up to U.S. imperialism! □

# Is Russia imperialist?

By Gary Wilson

For socialists, the fundamental understanding of imperialism goes back to World War I and is found in the pamphlet written by V.I. Lenin, "Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism."

Imperialism is not a policy chosen by one government and dropped by another. Imperialism is a system.

The First World War was the outcome of imperialism, Lenin wrote, an imperialist war waged for the political and economic exploitation of the world, export markets, sources of raw material, spheres of capital investment, etc. The imperialist powers raised huge armies and navies, not only to forcibly subjugate oppressed people in the colonies, but to make war against other imperialist countries competing for control.

According to Lenin, the world was already divided among the great capitalist powers when he wrote "Imperialism" in 1916. The war resulted from inter-imperialist rivalries to redivide the world.

The wars since WWI have changed circumstances. And World War II signaled a turning point in world imperialist relations. The United States emerged from WWII as the world's most powerful imperialist country, gaining control of former European empires in Asia and Africa.

The overturn of the socialist Soviet Union and the breakup of the Soviet republics into individual nation states was a dismantling of a planned economy, resulting in capitalist economies that are under-developed. There has not been a sudden, almost magical appearance of an imperialist Russia.

Lenin thought that there were a few characteristics of imperialism, including the rise of finance capital and the export of capital, not just commodities. The U.S., for example, exports not just commodities but capital — mostly in the form of loans or investments. U.S. banks are at the center of world commerce.

## Russia's economy almost neocolonial

Today, capitalist Russia's GDP is smaller than that of South Korea or India. Russia's economy is almost neocolonial, dependent on the exchange of raw materials such as oil and ores. This is the classic economic relationship of a colony to imperialist finance capital. In the list of the top 50 banks in the world, not one is Russian. The ruble is not a currency of trade. Russia does not export capital.

During the Soviet period, Russia and the other republics that formed the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics made remarkable industrial progress. Indeed, between 1921 and 1988 there were no years of negative economic growth — no recessions — except for the World War II years.

The Soviet economy fell into recession only in 1989 as the Gorbachev government began to dismantle the planned economy.

Under Gorbachev and then even more drastically under the openly anti-communist, anti-socialist government of Boris Yeltsin in the Russian Federal Republic, and in the new non-Russian former Soviet republics including Ukraine, socialist industry was dismantled.

Yeltsin finished the job of dismantling the Soviet economy that Gorbachev began. The years of Yeltsin are now remembered as perhaps the worst period in Russia's 1,000-year history. This was the greatest economic disaster any country has seen in modern times, in war or peace.

Ukraine had the second-largest economy in the USSR. "Independent" Ukraine is now the poorest country in Europe. By the end of 2020, some 45% of the population were in the poor category, according to a study by the Ptukha Institute. The deep poverty has created the conditions for fascist gangs to emerge.

## Putin's role

Putin, who was Yeltsin's prime minister and chosen successor, took a more protectionist direction, unlike Yeltsin and Gorbachev, who had fawned on the West.

Does that mean Putin moved away from the policies of Yeltsin and Gorbachev that had oriented the economy to exporting raw materials? Did Putin adopt a policy of industrialization?

Under Putin, there has been little growth of Russia's manufacturing production that had been demolished by the "perestroika" reforms. Manufacturing is the foundation of any successful modern economy. Yet, under Putin, Russia continues mainly as an exporter of raw materials.

Russia now accounts for about 6% of the global aluminum supply, 3.5% of the copper supply, and 4% of the cobalt supply. And Russia is the world's largest producer of crude oil and second-largest producer of dry natural gas, after the U.S.

Russia is in the top 10 exporters of grain crops, including barley, corn, rye, oats and especially wheat. From 2017-2019, it was the biggest exporter of wheat, accounting for about 20% of the world market.

Russia is a capitalist state, but that does not make it imperialist. Not all capitalist countries are imperialist nations. For example, Mexico is a capitalist country with an economy that's similar in size to Russia's, but is Mexico an imperialist country or an exploited country? Saying that it is capitalist is not enough to know the answer.

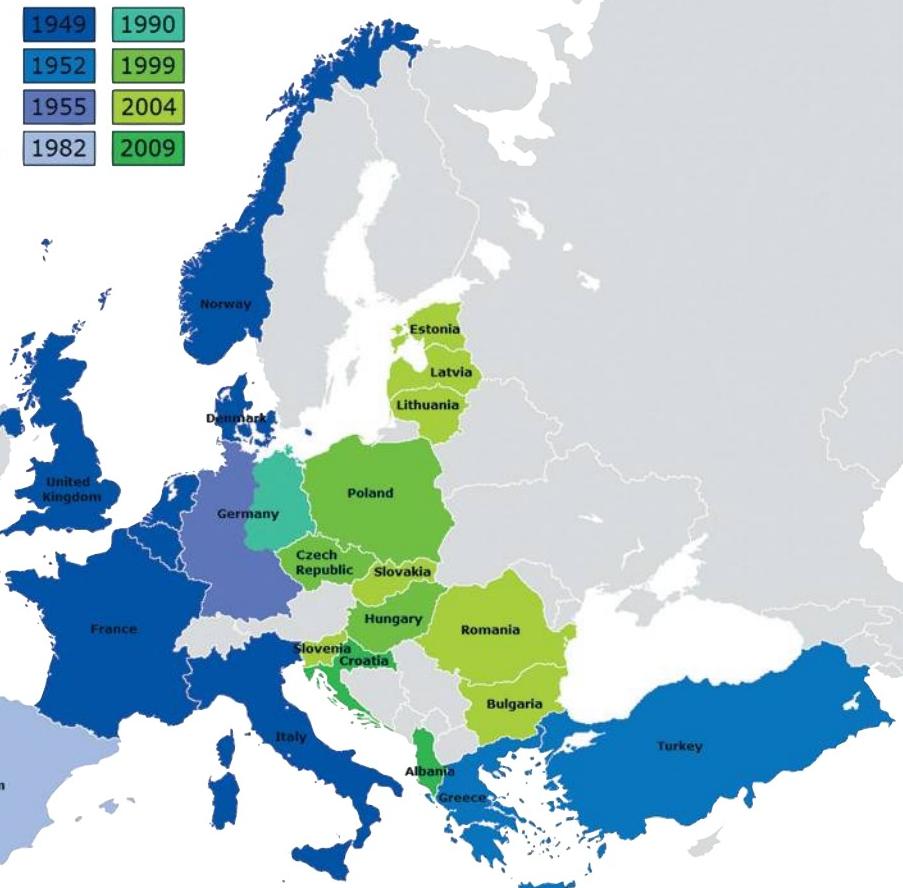
Lenin named at least four characteristics of imperialism: concentration of production into monopoly; merging of bank capital with industrial capital, creating finance capital; the export of capital; the fusion of finance capital and the state.

The role of finance capital may be most important. The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund have taken over the economies of the world. The dollar (not gold) is the currency of world trade. Today almost every country is capitalist, and most of those are exploited by imperialism, by finance capital.

Mexico is capitalist but it is not imperialist. Russia, too, is an exploited country in relation to imperialism, like Mexico.

## NATO targets Russia

Russia is the primary provider of gas and oil to much of Europe. The European Union imports 40% of its



gas from Russia. That's put Russia in competition with the U.S., the biggest producer of gas in the world.

The U.S. has been on a drive to control the world market in oil and gas. This can be seen in its attacks, actually acts of war (sanctions), against Iran and Venezuela as well as its war on Iraq. These are countries that had sought national sovereignty over oil and gas.

Russia, too, has been a target, especially its Nord Stream 2 pipeline, but not just for that.

Look at a map of NATO's expansion since the breakup of the USSR. The countries put under NATO include Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Slovenia, Croatia, Albania, Romania, Bulgaria.

In 2008, NATO put the inclusion of Ukraine and Georgia, both bordering Russia, on the table.

## NATO war on Yugoslavia

Despite the war propaganda that's presented as news these days, the first war in Europe since World War II didn't just start. That war was launched by the U.S. and NATO against Yugoslavia in 1999.

For 78 days, from March 24 to June 10, 1999, NATO bombers hit Belgrade, Pristina in Kosovo, Podgorica in Montenegro and several other cities. On the first day more than 20 buildings in Belgrade were leveled.

Much of the U.S./NATO bombing hit civilian targets. A passenger train was bombed. Cruise missiles could be seen flying down the streets. The U.S. directly bombed the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Belgrade, killing three Chinese reporters.

Russia understood the lesson of Yugoslavia and told the U.S. and NATO "no" to expansion to Ukraine and Georgia, on Russia's borders — 10 minutes by missile to Moscow.

The former U.S. ambassador to Russia, William J. Burns, who is now director of the CIA, said in a February 2008 embassy cable that Ukraine joining NATO constituted a security threat for Russia. Burns noted that to push for this "could potentially split the country [Ukraine] in two, leading to violence or even, some claim, civil war, which would force Russia to decide whether to intervene."

The U.S. never withdrew the proposal to include Ukraine.

## Maidan coup

In Ukraine, the so-called Maidan coup in 2014 that was openly supported and financed by NATO put in a government that made NATO membership a policy mandate. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has repeatedly requested Ukraine's entrance into NATO. On Feb. 19, Zelensky demanded, once again, entry to NATO, saying, "Eight years ago, Ukrainians made their choice [the Maidan coup]."

Actually, many Ukrainians resisted the Maidan coup, particularly in the working class. In the Maidan civil war, fascist gangs emerged as a force for the coup. Resistance to the coup was strongest in the eastern section of the country. In Odessa, a neo-nazi pro-Maidan gang targeted the Odessa House of Trade Unions, near the center of the resistance. The building was firebombed and at least 48 anti-fascists and labor activists were burned alive.

The resistance to the Maidan coup has continued from 2014 to today. The independent Donetsk People's Republic and Lugansk People's Republic were created when the people there voted overwhelmingly (89% and 96%) to secede from the Maidan regime. They have been subjected to continuous attack since then, particularly by the Ukrainian National Guard's Azov regiment, a neo-nazi stormtrooper-like operation. More than 14,000 have been killed in Ukraine's war on Donetsk and Lugansk.

As U.S. Ambassador Burns predicted, Russia was pushed into a corner by the unrelenting drive for NATO entry to Ukraine as well as the growing buildup of neo-nazi militias and the war on Donetsk and Lugansk. Ukraine had promised in the Minsk agreements it signed in 2014 and 2015 there would be a ceasefire, an end to all fighting, withdrawal of heavy weapons, release of prisoners of war, and the recognition of self-government in Donetsk and Lugansk. Ukraine fulfilled none of these promises.

Putin may not be an anti-imperialist leader, but the Russian military operation to "demilitarize and denazify" Ukraine and recognize the Donetsk People's Republic and the Lugansk People's Republic is a move against imperialism, U.S. and NATO imperialism.

# Imperialist propaganda and Ukrainian Jews

By Lev Koufax

Since it began, 2022 has been a year of intense U.S. imperialist saber rattling against Vladimir Putin and the Russian government. The U.S. military-industrial complex and Western media have pushed a narrative that any Russian incursion into the Ukraine is an invasion. Prior to the start of actual Russian military action, the U.S. propaganda machine sensationalized for months that a "Russian invasion is imminent."

As we have previously written, Russia is not the true aggressor in this situation. Since an alliance of fascists and military brass couped the popularly elected government in 2014, Ukraine and its imperialist allies have waged literal and economic warfare against the two Donbass republics. Struggle-La Lucha has thoroughly covered the real reasons behind this aggression. Any Russian military operation in the Ukraine is really an act of self-defense against nearly a decade of war and provocation from NATO and the Ukrainian government.

In recent weeks, in addition to the fever-pitch saber rattling, another disturbing trend has developed in the media in regard to the Ukrainian Jewish community. The U.S. and their allies have used this war crisis as an opportunity to push Zionist ideology and muddle history. The aim of this media blitz has been to falsely compare Russia and Nazi Germany, with the hopes of pushing more Jews towards Zionism. This strategy is as insidious as it is cynical. What makes this propaganda beyond despicable is the long history of Ukrainian nationalist collaboration with Nazi Germany and the present alliance between the government and neo-Nazis.

#### Personal note

In 1905, a young Ukrainian Jewish woman arrived at Ellis Island, New York. Her name was Anna Goldstein. Jacob Goldstein, Anna's father, decided it was time to move his family after pogroms devastated his village. Ukraine was part of the Russian Empire at the time, where anti-Semitic pogroms were as common as the



Members of Ukrainian National Guard's fascist Azov Battalion and Right Sector rally on 'Defender of Ukraine Day' on Oct. 14, 2016.

sunrise. That young woman, Anna, was my great-grandmother.

Fewer than 15 years after my great grandmother left her small village in the Ukraine, the Bolshevik Revolution led Russia into a new era. It is important to realize that the Tzar's oppression of the Jewish community was a significant contributing factor to the Bolshevik Revolution. My community was tired of the violence and the hate. It was for that reason that many Jews took up arms against the Tzar in the revolution of 1917.

That Revolution led to the formation of the USSR, a socialist state that fought for the rights of all oppressed people inside and outside of its borders. Less than 40 years after that revolution, the vile specter of fascism and hatred would haunt Ukraine and the surrounding area again. Eventually, it would be the troops of the USSR that destroyed that specter and liberated Jews from Nazi concentration camps.

#### Ukraine and the Holocaust

In 1941, there were just under three million Jews living in what is now known as Ukraine. That same year, Nazi Germany gained control of most of the western part of the USSR as part of Operation Barbarossa. This offensive was a violation of the non-aggression pact between the two countries and resulted in the Nazi occupation of Ukraine.

Almost immediately after Nazi forces occupied the western USSR, Adolf Hitler ordered the formation of SS death squads. These death squads were called "einsatzgruppen" and were particularly brutal in the Nazi-occupied regions of Eastern Europe. These death squads went to work immediately, targeting the Jewish community, as well as all other Soviet citizens in Ukraine, with confinement, torture, and murder.

Starting on Sept. 16, 1941, Nazi forces commenced an extermination campaign against the city of Mykolaiv, Ukraine. Within two weeks, over 35,000 people were murdered, the majority of them Jewish. Towards the end of the Mykolaiv massacre, the most infamous Nazi massacre of Jews occurred.

In a single day – **a single day** – Nazi forces killed 33,771 Jews in the Babi Yar ravine outside of Kiev. This author's extended family were some of the many who fell at Babi Yar. The Babi Yar massacre was followed by a violent campaign of terror against all Soviet citizens in the area that resulted in approximately 150,000 deaths. Many were Jews. Many were not.

It would be dishonest to discuss these atrocities without discussing Ukrainian collaboration with the Nazi occupiers. German Nazis were unfortunately not the sole perpetrators of these crimes against humanity. In fact, many

of these massacres were carried out by Ukrainian Nazis. Large movements of Ukrainian Nazis branding themselves as "nationalists" enacted constant horrors against Jewish, Ukrainian, and Russian people in the region. These groups included the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN) and the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA).

Both of these organizations espoused fascist and anti-Semitic ideology, and openly collaborated with Adolf Hitler's forces. Tens of thousands of Jews, Poles, and Russians were slaughtered at the hands of these groups. Many of their leaders ultimately joined SS police battalions. This included the massacre of 6,000 Jews in Lviv by the Ukrainian People's Militia, a wing of the OUN, immediately after the city fell to Nazi forces.

The remaining years of the war would see a litany of atrocities carried out not only by the Nazi army, but by the OUN and the UPA. The horrors inflicted by these groups and their leaders cannot be understated. When the Holocaust ended, the Nazis and their Ukrainian allies had killed over one million Ukrainian Jews. The Jewish population in Ukraine was nearly halved.

Unfortunately, and inexplicably, today the Ukrainian government lauds many of the OUN and UPA's leaders as national heroes. In 2010, outgoing right-wing Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko awarded UPA leader Stepan Bandera the "Hero of Ukraine" award. Bandera was a virulent and violent anti-Semite who organized many pogroms against the Jewish community during World War II. Yushchenko's successor, Viktor Yanukovych, officially repealed the award. However, the Ukrainian parliament has attempted **twice**, in 2018 and 2019, to reinstate the award. The 2019 attempt was championed by Servant of the People, current President Volodymyr Zelensky's political party. As recently as Jan. 1, 2022, various Ukrainian nationalist organizations led mass marches through Kiev in celebration of nazi-collaborator Bandera's birthday.

Also in 2019, the Kiev City Council renamed two city streets after nota-

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# Zelensky, Babi Yar and Aidar

By Lev Koufax

On March 2, Western corporate media reported that the Russian military launched a missile strike that damaged the Babi Yar Holocaust memorial in Kiev. Supposedly this memorial was damaged when Russian missiles destroyed a TV tower used by the Ukrainian government to push anti-Russia propaganda.

While Russia did launch an attack on a Ukrainian TV tower, the Babi Yar memorial was not damaged. Reporters from Ynet News visited the site personally and discovered there wasn't a dent in any of the structures. Ynet News is the online publication of Yedioth Ahronoth, the largest newspaper in Israel. Photographs clearly show that all statues are intact and the site remains unscathed from the military conflict. Nonetheless, the corporate me-

dia continue to circulate Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky's false claim that the Russian military targeted the Holocaust memorial. Truth doesn't matter to the imperialist media. It's as simple as that.

#### Aidar soldiers captured

In the first days of March, combined Russian and Donetsk People's Republic forces launched a successful offensive against the Ukrainian nazi Aidar Battalion. These attacks resulted in the dismantling of Aidar's high command and the destruction of Aidar headquarters.

During this offensive, DPR forces captured many Aidar Battalion soldiers. Armenian and Ukrainian independent media were able to take pictures of one soldier. On his neck and back, he had an iron eagle tat-



too and the Latin term "Suum Cuique." That term translated into German is, "Jedem Das Seine." It roughly means, "To each what he deserves."

"Jedem Das Seine" was a common German Nazi slogan and actually donned the gates at Buchenwald concentration camp. Every Jew, Roma person, LGBTQ2S person, communist or anyone else who entered Buchenwald saw that slogan.

Aidar Battalion's commander was recently named governor of Odessa by President Zelensky. Odessa is home to one of Ukraine's largest and most historic Jewish communities.

These are the types of people the Western media wants the working class to support: Nazi commanders and soldiers donning concentration camp slogan tattoos. □



Captured Aidar Battalion soldier's iron eagle tattoo and Nazi slogan "Suum Cuique."



# Around the world: Condemnation for NATO, solidarity with Donbass and Russia

By Greg Butterfield

To hear the U.S. corporate media tell it, the entire world has joined Washington in condemning Russia's recognition of the Donetsk and Lugansk People's Republics in Donbass and their joint anti-fascist military operation in Ukraine. But in reality, nothing could be further from the truth.

It's a fact that NATO allies and dependents have repeated the lies of an "unjustified Russian invasion" verbatim from U.S. State Department news releases. U.S.-owned social media platforms are flooded with "Pray for Ukraine" propaganda, much of it spiced up with photos of alleged Russian war horrors – often from attacks actually carried out by the U.S. and its proxies (in Yugoslavia, Palestine and even Donbass itself).

What's being carefully hidden from workers and oppressed people here is the opposition of many countries and movements to NATO expansion. They are aware of Washington's true role: making an armed conflict inevitable by stoking the flames of war in the region for months and years.

This is especially true in the case of the many countries that are themselves targets of U.S. war, sanctions and slander campaigns.

## BOLIVARIAN VENEZUELA

Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro has faced down many U.S.-instigated coups and assassination attempts. On Venezolana de Televisión Feb. 22, Maduro announced his government's support for Russia's decision to recognize the Donbass republics.

"We have been attentive to the events in Russia and in Ukraine, and we have been observing, not just now, but the whole evolution of the process where the North American empire and NATO intend by military means to end Russia, and to end this multipolar world that is already a reality."

"The Lugansk territory and the Donetsk territory assumed the functions of People's Republics to defend themselves from a massacre that the fascist sectors, which had seized power in Ukraine, began to carry out. Hunting men, hunting women, assaulting families, bombing with heavy weapons."

Maduro noted that during "all the stages" of this "extremely harsh conflict" in the region, "the diplomatic proposal, calling for dialogue, of President Putin has always been present." This resulted in the Minsk agreements that were established to guarantee peace. However, these were "ripped to shreds by the neo-fascist ruling elite of Ukraine."

He added: "The old colonialisms of Europe and the United States attack Russia, China and Iran, they threaten Turkey and Latin America, they also attack Cuba, Nicaragua, Bolivia, and Venezuela. The old colonialisms, the old superiority complexes of Europe and the old complexes of



Moscow news conference with Grup Yorum, Feb. 21.

rapacious colonialism represented by NATO and the neo-colonialism of the U.S. empire."

Maduro called Putin on March 1. "Putin shared his assessments of developments around Ukraine, noting that the goals of the special military operation are to protect civilians in Donbass, Kiev's recognizing the DPR and LPR and Russia's sovereignty over Crimea, as well as the demilitarization and denazification of the Ukrainian state, and ensuring its neutral and nuclear-free status," the Kremlin press service reported.

"Nicolás Maduro expressed strong support for Russia's decisive actions, condemned the destabilizing activity of the United States and NATO, and stressed the importance of countering the campaign of lies and disinformation launched by Western countries."

## SOCIALIST CUBA

On Feb. 23, on the eve of the anti-fascist military operation, President Miguel Diaz-Canel and a large,

high-level Cuban delegation met with visiting chair of the Russian Federation's State Duma, Vyacheslav Volodin.

Granma reports, "The Cuban president expressed his solidarity with the Russian Federation also facing escalating U.S. aggression and the expansion of NATO toward its borders." Volodin emphasized Russia's "condemnation of U.S. hostility toward [Cuba] and reiterated the will to continue strengthening exchanges at all levels."

An official Declaration of the Revolutionary Government of Cuba on Feb. 26 stated: "The American determination to continue the progressive expansion of NATO towards the borders of the Russian Federation has led to a scenario, with implications of unpredictable scope, that could have been avoided. ..."

"History will hold the U.S. government accountable for the consequences of an increasingly offensive military doctrine outside NATO's borders, which threatens international peace, security and stability."

"Our concerns are reinforced by the decision recently adopted by NATO to activate, for the first time, the Response Force of that military alliance."

"It was a mistake to ignore for decades the well-founded demands for security guarantees by the Russian Federation and to assume that the country would remain defenseless in the face of a direct threat to its national security. Russia has the right to defend itself. It is not possible to

achieve peace by encircling or cornering states."

## NICARAGUA AND BOLIVIA

Speaking Feb. 21, on the anniversary of the assassination of the great revolutionary Augusto Sandino, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega said: "President Putin has taken a step today whereby he recognized ... republics bordering Russia that did not recognize the coup government [in Ukraine] and created their own governments there."

"They set up their governments, they took on that fight, they have engaged in that struggle for independence. They have written to us, sending us messages explaining why they are waging this struggle. And meanwhile Ukrainian troops are looking for ways to overcome them, to liquidate them, to murder them; there have been thousands of deaths there over all these years."

"Despite the aggression by the Ukrainian army, they have not been able to defeat them. So [Putin] has recognized these governments, and of course this also implies military support so that these governments have security."

Former Bolivian President Evo Morales was the victim of a U.S.-backed coup in 2019, after an election marred by Washington's interference. Fortunately, the militant people's movement, led by Indigenous workers and peasants, returned the Movement Toward Socialism to power and Morales was able to come home in 2020.

Morales said: "NATO is a serious threat to international peace and security; its record of invasions and

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## Action at Ukrainian Embassy demands: Free Kononovich brothers!

By Struggle-La Lucha  
Washington bureau

March 8 – Amidst the torrent of anti-Russia war propaganda in the United States, members of the Socialist Unity Party and Youth Against War and Racism went to the Ukrainian Embassy in Washington, D.C., to picket and deliver a letter from people's organizations demanding the immediate release of Aleksandr Kononovich and Mikhail Kononovich.

The brothers, leaders of the Leninist Communist Youth Union, were detained March 6 by the notorious Security Service of Ukraine (SBU). The action was in response to a call by the World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY) to take action to save the lives of the Kononovich brothers.

The letter states:

"To whom it may concern,

"Our organizations have been alerted by the World Federation of Democratic Youth, an organization started in 1945 to unite youth internationally in efforts to fight fascism, and a non-governmental organization that is recognized by and collaborates with the United Nations:

"On March 6th, through the Security Service of Ukraine, the arrest of Aleksandr Kononovich and Mikhail Kononovich was reported. Both are accused, without any basis whatsoever, of alleged collaboration with the secret services of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus. This constitutes a flagrant violation of their human and political rights – a reality that, unfortunately, is not new and has been happening since the fascist coup of 2014, which was supported by the United States, the European Union, and NATO."



SLL PHOTOS: RASIKA RUWANPATHIRANA

"This is why we want to express our demand for their immediate release. We would also like to express our concern about their state of health. Any harm to the lives of Aleksandr Kononovich and Mikhail Kononovich will be the responsibility of the Government of Ukraine."

"We hope that our demand will be met as soon as possible."

"Sincerely,

Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice,  
Los Angeles  
Struggle La Lucha for Socialism, nationwide locations  
Socialist Unity Party, nationwide locations  
Peoples Power Assembly, Baltimore  
Youth Against War & Racism, Baltimore" 

# Imperialist propaganda and Ukrainian Jews

*Continued from page 6*

rious Ukrainian Nazi collaborators, Nil Khasevych and Ivan Pavlenko. Pavlenko was personally responsible for the murder of Jews during World War II and eventually commanded an SS battalion. Khasevych was a leader in the OUN and one of the most famous Nazi propagandists of the time. It should be noted that Vitali Klitschko, the Mayor of Kiev who championed these proposals, is still in office.

As can be seen, the Ukrainian government has continued to honor fascists, particularly since 2014. This has not changed even with the election of a Jewish president, Volodymyr Zelensky.

## Contemporary neo-Nazi movements

Corporate media today would have us believe that Russia is an inherent threat to Jewish life. There is no doubt that at the turn of the 20th century, the Russian Tsar and his empire were a grave threat to Jewish life. However, times have changed. The only threat to Jewish life in this conflict is the fascist Ukrainian government filled to the brim with Nazi collaborators.

As if the incessant historical praise of World War II-era Nazis wasn't enough, the Ukrainian government has continued to support various neo-Nazi militias and political parties in the present day. Ever since the Euromaidan of 2014, the Ukrainian government has been heavily influenced, if not controlled, by the fascist movement.

Just three years ago, The Nation published a telling exposé on the

growing nature of the fascist movement in Ukraine. The article describes large scale neo-Nazi marches with thousands of tiki torches and Nazi flags. However, the level of neo-Nazi infiltration in the current government coupled with NATO funds and arms getting to neo-Nazi militias is even more concerning.

Since 2014, NATO has consistently trained and equipped the Azov Battalion, a fascist militia operating in the Donbass republics. This militia's goal has been clear: to rid Ukraine of any "ethnic impurity." This presumably includes Jews, Russians, and even progressive Ukrainians. In 2019, the Azov Battalion was officially integrated into the Ukrainian National Guard.

As if that wasn't enough, the current leader of the Ukrainian National Police, Vadim Troyan, is a veteran of the Azov brigade and a known neo-Nazi collaborator. Troyan consistently encourages his troops and deputies to study Stepan Bandera and carry on the proud tradition of "Ukrainian nationalism," which is really just Nazism.

It would seem that the current Ukrainian government is simply a revival of the pro-Nazi organizations of the 1940s.

## So, should Jews support govts of Ukraine & NATO?

Well, the answer is simple. No.

For the record, Israel should be included in that no.

Beginning around Feb. 21, mainstream media and multiple Jewish media outlets were blitzed with stories encouraging Ukraine's roughly

300,000 Jews to emigrate to Israel because of the impending "Russian invasion." These stories originated from the statements of several prominent rabbis to media outlets like the New York Times and Washington Post. These rabbis include the Chief Rabbi of Israel and a prominent Rabbi in Odessa.

It should be noted, both of these rabbis are IDF veterans and support right-wing Zionist ideology. The implication of these articles is that Vladimir Putin is built in the mold of Adolf Hitler and that the fascist state of Israel is the only safe place for Jews.

Given all of the historical and present connections between Ukrainian nationalists and the fascist movement, that assertion is far from the truth. This is not to say that Ukrainian Jews aren't under threat. They certainly are. This threat just isn't from Russia. It is from the fascist aligned Ukrainian government and its neo-Nazi militias. These are organizations that openly wave swastika flags and call for new pogroms against the Jewish community.

There is also a sick irony in that idea because Israel is this place where war is as common as the air we breathe. The Israeli government commands one of the most aggressive and vicious militaries and police forces on the planet. No country bombs or attacks its neighbors more than Israel. There is no better demonstration of this than the Israeli military offensives against innocent Palestinian people in 2014 and 2021. To this day, Israel continues to launch unprovoked attacks on

countries like Syria, all on behalf of the U.S. ruling class.

As if this warfare on the Arab world wasn't enough, there is Israel's constant disdain for its own people, whether it be 18-year-old Israeli communist Roman Levin who refused to continue serving in a military that enforced apartheid against Palestine, or Ethiopian Orthodox Jewish teenager Solomon Tekah, who Israeli police brutally murdered in 2019.

As a global Jewish community, we need to be honest with ourselves. Why do we swallow whole the propaganda of countries like the U.S. and Israel when these countries don't give a damn about us? Neither of these two countries care about the welfare of the Jewish community, or any other oppressed community for that matter.

Russia is not the enemy of the Jewish community. Palestine is not the enemy of the Jewish community. The Donbass republics are not the enemy of the Jewish community. Fascism is the enemy of the Jewish community. Imperialism is the enemy of the Jewish community.

We must resist both. That means refusing to support a NATO-backed Ukrainian fascist war. That means questioning the use of Israel as a cudgel to turn us against our brothers and sisters in the Donbass and Palestine. That means analyzing the true nature of past Ukrainian nationalist movements and the current fascist-friendly Ukrainian regime.

Emigration to Israel won't keep the Jewish community safe. Only solidarity will. We must do better. ■

# World condemnation for NATO, solidarity with Donbass and Russia

*Continued from page 7*

aggression proves it. Now, its expansionist attempt is one of the main reasons for the situation in Ukraine."

## SOCIALIST KOREA

A declaration by the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) on Feb. 26 said in part: "The U.S. unilateral and unfair cold war mentality and its bloc-forming external policy transformed the structure of international relations into one of a new cold war, and they strain politico-military situations with each passing day and continue to spawn new knotty problems in different parts of the world. ..."

"In particular, the air raid conducted by NATO against Yugoslavia at the end of the last century served as an occasion of bringing to light the extent of U.S. and Western hypocrisy in their much-touted global peace and stability, territorial integrity and safeguarding of sovereignty, as well as of exposing in all its nakedness who is the real destroyer of international peace and stability.

"The Iraq War, the Afghan War and other 'color revolutions' which brought tragedy to the 21st century clearly substantiate the fact that the U.S. and the West would seek their policies of hegemony by fair means or foul.

"The present international order is that it has become an immutable

law that seeds of discord are sown in every region and country where the U.S. intervenes, and that the relations between the states deteriorate.

"The root cause of the Ukrainian crisis also lies in the high-handedness and arbitrariness of the U.S. which has held on solely to the unilateral sanctions and pressure while pursuing only global hegemony and military supremacy in disregard of the legitimate demand of Russia for its security."

## PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

In numerous official statements, articles and social media posts, the government and people of China – the world's most populous country and another target of the U.S. New Cold War – have made it crystal clear that Washington and NATO are responsible for the unfolding crisis in Eastern Europe.

On Feb. 27, the diplomatic legation of the Chinese Embassy in Moscow reminded the world that "Of the 248 armed conflicts that occurred between the years 1945 and 2001 in 153 regions of the world, 201 were initiated by the U.S., accounting for 81 percent of the total number.

"Never forget who is the real threat to the world," the Chinese embassy said.

It added that the administration of President Joe Biden is to "blame for the current tensions around Ukraine" as it poured fuel on the fire

"while accusing others of not doing their best to put out the fire."

At a Feb. 23 news conference in Beijing, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying stated: "When the U.S. drove five waves of NATO expansion eastward all the way to Russia's doorstep and deployed advanced offensive strategic weapons in breach of its assurances to Russia, did it ever think about the consequences of pushing a big country to the wall?"

"The next day, as Ms. Hua was peppered with questions about whether China considered Russia's 'special military operation' an invasion, she turned the briefing into a critique of the United States," reported the New York Times. "You may go ask the U.S.: they started the fire and fanned the flames," she said. "How are they going to put out the fire now?"

"She bristled at the U.S. State Department's comment that China should respect state sovereignty and territorial integrity, a longstanding tenet of Chinese foreign policy.

"The U.S. is in no position to tell China off," she said. Then she mentioned the three journalists who were killed in NATO's bombing of the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade in 1999, a tragic incident that prompted widespread anti-U.S. protests in China.

"NATO still owes the Chinese people a debt of blood," she said.

"That sentence became the top Weibo hashtag as Russia was bombing Ukraine. The hashtag, created by

the state-run People's Daily newspaper, has been viewed more than a billion times. In posts below it, users called the United States a 'war monger' and a 'paper tiger.'

## LEBANON'S HEZBOLLAH

The Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah rejected a statement by the country's Foreign Ministry that condemned Russia's actions. During a Feb. 25 cabinet session in Beirut, Minister of Labor Mustafa Bayram, a member of Hezbollah, said the statement violated the principles of neutrality espoused by the Lebanese government.

Ibrahim Al-Moussawi, a member of parliament from the Loyalty and Resistance bloc, criticized government officials who "distance themselves and pretend to be neutral where they want, and ... interfere and condemn where they want."

In a March 1 televised speech, Hezbollah Secretary General Sayyed Hasan Nasrallah slammed the West's "double standards" and stressed that the U.S. is not trustworthy.

"The U.S. is to blame over the crisis in Ukraine," Nasrallah said. "Washington has been inciting and working on this scenario for weeks."

"How did the international community react to wars on Iraq, Afghanistan, Palestine, Syria and Yemen? And how did it react to Russia's

*Continued on page 9*

# Why North Korea resists U.S. threats with military readiness

By Scott Scheffer

Among the statements from numerous countries and left organizations around the world that condemn the U.S. manipulations that cornered Russia into carrying out military action in Ukraine is one from the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) or socialist North Korea.

The statement referred to the way that the U.S. empire employs every means from manipulation of proxies to direct military assault as it chases profits and leaves a path of destruction from one side of the globe to the other.

"The root cause of the Ukraine crisis totally lies in the hegemonic policy of the U.S. and the West," North Korea's news agency KCNA reported. The statement goes on to say, "The Iraqi War, the Afghan War and other 'color revolutions' which brought tragedy to the 21st century clearly substantiate the fact that the U.S. and the West would seek their policies of hegemony by fair means or foul."

Although the hypocritical outcry over Russia's intervention in Ukraine has disoriented many in the anti-imperialist and left movements, North Korean leaders understand full-well that military readiness is the only guarantee of survival against imperialism.

Based on their own history, having survived the brutality and experienced the treachery of U.S. imperialism, they know that the blame for the current crisis belongs at the doorstep of the White House.

In the 1950-1953 war that left the Korean peninsula divided in half, North Korea endured one of the most brutal military assaults of the 20th century. Millions of North Ko-



Pyongyang, North Korea: Students dance during a celebration of the 74th anniversary of the Korean People's Army, Feb. 8.

rean people lost their lives. Pyongyang and other cities were leveled by U.S. bombers. Civilians were trapped in buildings set ablaze by the U.S. military.

It was a great military feat that North Korea and its allies not only withstood the assault but drove the imperialists back to the U.S.-imposed division at the 38th parallel.

Since 1953, the U.S. has refused to sign a peace treaty with North Korea, and has maintained bases, tens of thousands of troops and at times nuclear weapons in South Korea. U.S. Navy warships patrol the waters nearby and nuclear-capable B-52 bombers are stationed in Guam.

Still, the DPRK leadership has refused to give up its policy of prioritizing military preparedness, called "Songun," which translates to "military first."

#### Origins of Songun policy

On Feb. 8, North Korea celebrated Army Day, marking the foundation of the Korean People's Army in 1948. There is also a second holiday, Mili-

tary Foundation Day on April 25, that commemorates the day in 1932 when a brilliant Korean anti-Japanese resistance leader named Kim Il Sung founded its predecessor, the Korean People's Revolutionary Army.

Songun is rooted in that 1910 to 1945 period when Koreans fought Japanese imperialism to gain self-determination. Kim Il Sung's family were activists in the struggle and had to flee to Manchuria to escape heavy repression when he was a child.

Kim joined and fought alongside guerrillas associated with Chinese revolutionary leader Mao Zedong. His brilliance came to the attention of the Soviet leadership. Soon he became a major in the Soviet Red Army and led a division consisting entirely of Korean resistance fighters that was simply called "Kim Il Sung's Division." Kim's troops and the Red Army chased Japan down to the 38th parallel.

The U.S. had posed as Korea's liberator. But it was apparent by the close of World War II that the U.S. was the new imperialist colonizer.

Washington held the southern half of the Korean peninsula hostage.

In the five years preceding the Korean War, U.S. imperialism brutalized the people's movement of the south, murdering hundreds of thousands, arming a brutal new regime and readying itself for the attack on the north.

After the north's astonishing victory, the people of the DPRK rebuilt their cities and industry. With strong friendships with the USSR, China, the socialist countries of Eastern Europe and later Cuba and Vietnam, North Korea thrived for decades.

But the horrible economic sanctions imposed by the U.S. began to take their toll, and after the downfall of the USSR, the U.S. ruling class was confident that North Korea would collapse.

#### Bill Clinton's nuclear extortion

Unable to obtain fuel for industry and home heating after the loss of its Soviet trading partner, North Korea turned to improving its nuclear energy capabilities. The U.S. demanded the DPRK stop processing plutonium, claiming that it was stockpiling weapons-grade plutonium from the nuclear energy by-product.

In response, the north, desperate to end the punishing sanctions, announced it would withdraw from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Agreement unless the U.S. ended the sanctions and stopped its war threats. The U.S. media banged the war drums louder, much the same way they have whipped up sentiment against Russia today.

The crisis very nearly led to a second war. President Bill Clinton's

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## World condemnation for NATO

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military campaign in Ukraine? Such stances prove that the strongest is respected in this world while the weak are oppressed."

#### SYRIA

Hezbollah, along with the governments of Syria and Iran, form the Axis of Resistance against U.S. imperialism in Western Asia. Together with Russia, they have fought to free Syria from the ultra-right Daesh movement and other Western allied "rebels," and from U.S. occupation troops, in a war that has gone on for more than a decade.

Syria was among the first countries to welcome the news of Russia's decision to recognize the Donbass republics. On Feb. 22, SANA reported, Deputy Foreign Minister Dr. Bashar al-Jaafari affirmed that Syria "supports Russia's recognition of the independence of the Donetsk and Lugansk republics, indicating that it had expressed its willingness two months ago to work on building relations with the two republics in the context of common interests."

In an interview, al-Jaafari said: "The question is whether or not the United States will succeed in imposing a unipolar regime on all countries of the world, including Russia and China. That is, the issue is related to geopolitics and not to politics in the simple sense of the word. Therefore, Syria is part of the scene, and China, Venezuela and Iran are part of this scene in the geopolitical sense."

On Feb. 25, Syrian President Bashar al-Assad spoke with Russian President Putin to express his solidarity with the anti-fascist military operation and condemn the imperialists' "dirty methods to support terrorists in Syria and Nazis in Ukraine."

"President Assad stressed that what is happening today is a correction of history and a restoration of balance in the global order after the fall of the Soviet Union," the Syrian government announced.

Assad also said that "Syria stands with the Russian Federation based on its conviction that its position is correct and because confronting NATO expansionism is Russia's right."

#### IRAN

On March 1, Iran's religious leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei blamed the U.S. for the crisis in Ukraine, saying the Islamic Republic of Iran has always opposed war and destruction anywhere in the world.

"The U.S. disrupted the stability of the country by interfering in its affairs and organizing rallies and creating a color coup," Khamenei explained. "We oppose the killing of people and the destruction of the infrastructure of nations."

"If the people of Ukraine had been involved, the Ukrainian government wouldn't be in this situation. The people didn't get involved because they didn't approve of the government," he said.

"The American regime is a perfect example of modern ignorance. This regime is a crisis-producing and crisis-consuming regime, and it feeds off creating crises in the world."

According to Press TV, "As an example, the leader pointed to the U.S. formation of the Daesh Takfiri terrorist group, denouncing Washington for plundering oil resources

in eastern Syria, stealing Afghanistan's assets, and supporting Israeli crimes against Palestinians."

"The leader then pointed to the West's double standards in dealing with the crisis in Ukraine, stating that Western countries support the killing of Yemeni people in the Saudi war, but they call for an end to the Ukraine crisis."

"If the United States fails to create a crisis, the arms factories will not be able to make the most of it," Khamenei said. "They have to create crises in order to maximize the interests of these mafias."

#### TURKISH MOVEMENTS

Turkey's repressive government, a NATO member, has been waging war on Syria. It is also arming Ukraine with deadly drones and threatens to block Russian access to the Black Sea by closing the Dardanelles Strait.

The revolutionary music group Grup Yorum has suffered greatly from repression by Turkey's government. Not only is it banned from giving concerts, but several mem-

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# Cuba announces seminar to abolish U.S. bases and NATO

By Cheryl LaBash

Friends in solidarity with Cuba are invited to come to Guantanamo for a two-day conference May 4 to 6 to abolish foreign U.S. military bases and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), says the call by the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples and World Peace Council.

This VII International Seminar for Peace will demand "the end of the arms race that imperialism is developing together with its NATO allies, who with their eagerness to expand, and their propaganda and communication hysteria, place the world on the brink of a new global conflagration."

At a moment when the United States seeks to add Colombia to the ranks of NATO, this conference will "reiterate the importance and full validity of the Proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace" approved by all the heads

of state and government of the region who met at the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States 2014 Summit in Havana, Cuba.

Held in Guantanamo City in Cuba's Guantanamo province, the conference program includes a visit to Caimanera, a small town on the edge of Guantanamo Bay in view of the U.S. military base illegally occupying Cuban territory. Delegates will meet with Caimanera residents in a social engagement hosted by the local Committee for Defense of the Revolution.

"For 119 years the U.S. government has illegally maintained, against the will of the Cuban people and government, a naval base that has become a center of torture to prisoners in total violation of their human rights," says the conference call. The demand to close the prison grows stronger each year, as prisoners who have been tortured so badly that no credible trial was possible



after 20 years are finally released.

But Guantanamo is more than a prison. A short video made by Resumen Latinoamericano exclaims: "All Guantanamo is Ours," showing why the demand must also be "U.S. Out of Guantanamo." Return that massive territory astride the mouth of an enormous, beautiful bay to the Cuban people!

More information about the seminar to abolish foreign bases and

NATO can be found at ICAP's website, SiempreConCuba.org, and will also be available in the near future through the National Network On Cuba (NNOC), the umbrella organization for U.S. activity in solidarity with Cuba.

The NNOC is organizing U.S. participation in the XV International Voluntary Work and Solidarity Brigade from April 24 to May 8. ☒

# Do you know what's happening in Ukraine? The media lies

By Gary Wilson

The first casualty of war is truth. To that could be added: Propaganda is the first weapon used in war.

The U.S. military-industrial-media complex is working overtime on Ukraine.

Unreported or hidden by the U.S. media, for example, is the fact that civilian casualties in Ukraine are relatively few. The Ukrainian health ministry, after the first week of the Russian "demilitarization and denazification" operation, put the number of civilian deaths at around 200.

Five days later, as this is being written, the number is now in the range of 300 to 400, according to Michael Brenner, professor of International Affairs at the University of Pittsburgh.

By contrast, when the U.S. launched George Bush's "shock and awe" invasion of Iraq in 2003, some 7,186 Iraqi civilians were killed in the first weeks of the murderous assault.

Professor Brenner says of Ukraine today: "Russian forces are calculatingly avoiding attacks on urban centers ... Moscow has no interest in subjugating the country to its rule.

"In comparison, the Ukrainian army has been shelling the city centers of Lugansk and Donetsk, producing casualties estimated by a U.N. agency at more than 1,300 (3 or 4 times what objective observers estimate on the Ukrainian government's side of the battle lines). Also, the [Lugansk and Donetsk] water system has been destroyed [by Ukraine forces]. Yet, these facts are unreported and unnoticed."

On March 2, President Biden was asked whether Russian forces are deliberately targeting civilian areas in Ukraine. Biden answered, "It's clear they are." Brenner notes that



this was an outright lie, picked up and transmitted by the U.S. media without comment.

Readers and viewers of the U.S. media are being fed propaganda that's meant to whip up an anti-Russia, anti-Putin war frenzy. Like all U.S. war propaganda, there is an underlying white supremacist theme.

"White supremacy is at the heart of U.S. war propaganda," says Margaret Kimberley, executive editor of Black Agenda Report. "The exhortation to 'stand with Ukraine' is no exception to this rule."

This also means there is no understanding of what is happening, including the actual events now taking place in Ukraine.

## Putin is not crazy, Russia is not failing

The British Daily Mail warned in a headline: "Putin is NOT crazy and the Russian invasion is NOT failing."

Patrick Armstrong, a former analyst in the Canadian Department of National Defense who was in the

Canadian Embassy in Moscow in 1993-1996, wrote on March 4: "So far the Russian military operation in Ukraine has been a reconnaissance in force preceded by the destruction of the supplies and headquarters of the Ukrainian Armed Forces ...

"At the moment they are readying for the next phase. The long column that so obsessed the 'experts' on CNN is the preparation for the next phase. ...

"As far as I can see they've created three cauldrons (encirclements). Probably the most important one is the one around Mariupol where the main concentration of Azov, the principal nazi force, is.

"Another is being established around the main concentration of the Ukrainian Armed Forces facing [the Lugansk People's Republic]. And there appears to be another developing to the east of Kiev. A super cauldron of all three is visible. The nazis will be exterminated; the ordinary Ukrainian soldiers will be allowed to go home. ...

"The dilemma for the Russians is city fighting. They do not want to have a Raqqa [Syria] in which every building is destroyed, every person killed and [desolation] is declared to be [peace]. They know that at the end of the day there will still be Ukrainians and they will want them to be friends: Washington can create solitudes [ruins] far away, but Moscow cannot create them nearby.

"This greatly complicates their problem when they try to clear the nazis out of Mariupol, knowing that the nazis are using the city's people as hostages. The same problem exists, to a lesser degree, in the other cities of [Ukrainian-occupied Donbass and eastern Ukraine]. My guess is they will surround most cities and hope that Zelinsky & Co. come to their senses. But I fear that the Mariupol battle will be horrible.

"I would expect large-scale surrenders of the Ukrainian Armed Forces to begin in the next 24/48 hours (Chechen forces already claim one and have an impressive collection of 'trophies' to prove it). A significant proportion of the Ukrainian Armed Forces is now surrounded and, as is usual (see Sun Tsu's 'The Art of War') the Russians have left them an exit.

"As to Western sanctions against Russia, I think there's a very simple answer to that: last week 1,000 cubic meters of gas cost \$1,000; today it's over twice that. Next week it certainly won't be cheaper. Ditto for aluminum, potash, titanium, wheat. ...

"What the people in the West do not understand is the ruble is the currency the Russians use inside the country but the price of oil and gas is the Russian currency outside the country. I am astounded at the stupidity: [the U.S. and NATO] are cutting their own throats and destroying their own economies." ☒

# President Zelensky and Mayor Goode

By Stephen Millies

While landlords are raising rents by 40%, the capitalist media wants you to hate Russia. They are trying to turn Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky into a folk hero.

Zelensky is a professional clown. He played the role of a Ukrainian president in a TV sitcom.

He was selected to be an actual president because U.S. imperialism needed a new look in Ukraine. Wasn't that the role of José Napoleón Duarte in El Salvador during the 1980s?

He was cheated out of winning El Salvador's 1972 presidential election by vote fraud. Duarte was later tortured and sentenced to death.

None of this prevented him from being the face of a bloody military regime that carried out the orders of the Pentagon.

When Duarte was a civilian president of a military junta, more than 800 people were murdered in the village of El Mozote. Most of the victims of this December 1981 massacre were children.

The Reagan administration desperately needed the atrocity to be covered up. They remembered how the My Lai massacre in Vietnam turned millions against that war.

Reagan was assisted by not only Duarte but also the New York Times. Because of their truthful reporting, Raymond Bonner at the Times and Alma Guillermoprieto at the Washington Post were viciously attacked by the right wing. Bonner was driven out by the Times' management.

Today the New York Times and the Washington Post are among the loudest voices in the hate Russia chorus. They're much more influential in winning liberals and progressive people to NATO's war drive than Fox News ever could be. The killing of over 14,000 people in the Donbass republics by the Ukrainian regime is hardly ever mentioned by the media.

Duarte defeated the openly fascist Roberto D'Aubuisson in El Salvador's



Ukrainian neo-Nazis burn the Odessa House of Trade Unions on May 2, 2014.



Aftermath of Philadelphia police bombing of MOVE house on May 13, 1985.

1984 presidential election. This gave an excuse to many Democratic Party members of Congress to give billions to the killers in El Salvador's military.

#### Who are the ones with the guns?

Zelensky is allowed to stay in Kiev's Mariinsky Palace because of

his usefulness to Wall Street and European banksters. Millions of Ukrainians voted for Zelensky in 2019 because they thought he would stop the fascist gangs terrorizing Ukraine.

The fact that Zelensky is Jewish is used as alleged proof that fascism in Ukraine isn't a big problem anymore. After Barack Obama was elected U.S. president, many media commentators claimed racism in the United States wasn't much of a problem either.

The Black Lives Matter movement proved that to be a lie. Obama was put in the White House because a large section of the ruling class felt they needed a new brand for their empire.

Tens of millions of people rejoiced when the first U.S. Black president was elected. It also made it easier for the Pentagon to attack the African country of Libya than if some obvious racist had been in office.

While Zelensky is the figure-head seen on TV, fascists like those in the Azov Battalion and Right Sector have been brought into the Ukrainian army and police. One of the factors that allowed JFK's assassination was that half of the Dallas cops were Ku Klux Klan members.

The Deep State is the real state. Lenin pointed this out in "The State and Revolution." When Gen. Milley responded to Trump's attempted coup by saying "we're the ones with the guns," he was expressing a Marxist truth.

#### The Odessa and Philadelphia massacres

Five years before Zelensky assumed office on May 20, 2019, at least 48 people at the House of Trade Unions in Odessa were murdered on May 2, 2014. Neo-Nazis prevented people from escaping. Many were burned to death.

It shows the fascist character of the Euromaidan movement's leadership that the union hall was attacked. None of the criminals who carried out this atrocity have been prosecuted. Leftists were arrested instead.

Zelensky has done nothing to seek justice for the victims of this massacre, just as he has allowed the deadly shelling of the Donbass republics. Justice will only be carried out by Ukrainian leftists assisted by soldiers of the Russian Federation.

Six adults and five children were killed by Philadelphia police when the MOVE house was bombed on May 13, 1985. The cops were assisted by FBI agents and the Pentagon in dropping the bomb from a helicopter.

When Wilson Goode — Philadelphia's first Black mayor — got up that morning, he wasn't thinking 11 Black people would be killed along with the burning of four city blocks.

It was Philadelphia's police chief who gave the order to "let it burn," preventing the fire department from putting out the fire. But Mayor Goode still bears a responsibility for these murders.

The communist leader Sam Marcy could have added this terrorist crime as an appendix to his pamphlet "Generals Over the White House." He might have entitled it "Cops Over City Hall."

#### "Neutrality" is a cop-out

President Vladimir Putin was forced to intervene in Ukraine in order to stop it from being a NATO base aimed at the Russian Federation. If this had happened, the next step would have been World War 3.

The entire imperialist metropolis led by the United States has issued severe sanctions against Russia. These include seizing Russian assets and cutting off Russian banks from the SWIFT financial clearing system. Sanctions are acts of war.

Sincere pacifists may condemn all wars, but revolutionaries know that some wars are progressive and indeed necessary. For socialists and communists to condemn "both sides" in the current crisis is a cop-out.

The world was horrified at the MOVE bombing. But some wanted to blame one of the victims, MOVE leader John Africa, for this terrorist act.

These liberals also refused to defend Mumia Abu-Jamal, a revolutionary who has been imprisoned for 40 years and whom the capitalist state wanted to execute.

U.S. imperialism will not defeat itself. Revolutionaries have the right to accept assistance from anybody.

Soviet socialism was tragically overthrown and Russian Federation President Putin is no Lenin. Yet right now Russia's armed forces are playing an indispensable role in rescuing the Donbass republics and Ukrainian workers from fascist terror.

It does no good to sit on the sidelines. Victory to the Donbass republics and their allies! ☮

## Why North Korea resists U.S. threats

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cabinet was already gathered in the White House war room with the generals, when another faction of the U.S. ruling class — led by those around former President Jimmy Carter — negotiated a deal that they thought would bring about North Korea's collapse without a costly war.

With the cooperation of other imperialist countries, the U.S. offered to construct two lightwater nuclear energy reactors and send shipments of fuel oil to help North Korea get through the harsh winters until the reactors were completed. Washington also offered to incrementally dial back the punishing economic sanctions.

Fuel for the new reactors would have to be provided by countries that were already nuclear powers. In return, the DPRK would remain part of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and stop processing nuclear fuel of its own.

The Clinton administration retreated from its war plans — not be-

cause it hoped to resolve the crisis peacefully, but because the deal that Carter's people negotiated was a ruse. The U.S. and other imperialist countries involved did not intend to live up to the obligations of the agreement. Their intention was to bide their time until the DPRK collapsed.

The construction of the two reactors went nowhere for years. The heating oil was never delivered on the promised schedule. Sanctions remained intact.

Finally, after eight years of delay, the "Agreed Framework" collapsed. It was only after this betrayal that North Korea unequivocally developed its nuclear defense program.

The imperialist treachery of today looks familiar to Kim Jong Un and the rest of North Korea's leadership. The DPRK's statement on the Russia-Ukraine conflict shows that they recognize the machinations that began with the fascist coup in Ukraine in 2014, and that it was the U.S. that greenlit the new Ukrainian attack on the people of Donbass, forcing Russia to intervene. ☮



Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

Hoy quisiera rendir homenaje a una gran luchadora por los derechos de la mujer, la abogada y profesora María Dolores Fernós López-Cepero, mejor conocida como Tati Fernós quien falleció de cáncer esta semana. En los 75 años que esta increíble mujer vivió, pudo lograr lo que otras personas necesitarían siglos para poder concretar.

Gracias a su trabajo, las mujeres en Puerto Rico hemos podido adelantar nuestras luchas en muchos aspectos abarcadores de género, laborales, y de equidad en general.

Entre sus muchos logros, está la creación de leyes para la Prevención e Intervención de la Violencia Doméstica, y en contra del Hostigamiento Sexual en el Empleo.

Creó la Oficina de la Procuradora de la Mujer en el año 2001 que presidió por 6 años y desde la cual se pudieron lanzar muchos proyectos en defensa de la mujer.

Fue fundadora y activista de la Or-

ganización Puertorriqueña de la Mujer Trabajadora (OPMT), que forma parte de la Federación Democrática Internacional de Mujeres, la FDIM. Ayudó a crear organizaciones como Matria, que adelantan programas para el desarrollo económico de las mujeres.

Como anticolonialista tuvo también que batallar contra las acciones reaccionarias de los enemigos de la independencia. Un ejemplo es que al poco tiempo de comenzar en la Procuraduría de la Mujer, un grupo de dirigentes del Partido Nuevo Progresista que quieren la estadidad

Desde Puerto Rico, para Radio Clarín de Colombia, les habló Berta Joubert-Ceci.



para PR, irrumpieron agresivamente en su oficina para colocar una bandera de EUA porque Fernós había rehusado tenerla junto a nuestra bandera puertorriqueña.

Y aunque el proceso colonial con administraciones de gobierno local que entorpecen y hacen retroceder los logros de la mujer, las estructuras que Tati Fernós ayudó a crear, sientan las bases de lo que últimamente nos dará la victoria.

A esta mujer cuyo lema era luchar por lo que le exigía su conciencia, decimos hoy: Gracias Tati Fernós, ¡siempre estarás Presente! ☰

# Cuba aboga por una solución que garantice la seguridad y soberanía de todos

## Declaración del Gobierno Revolucionario

El empeño estadounidense en continuar la progresiva expansión de la OTAN hacia las fronteras de la Federación de Rusia, ha conducido a un escenario, con implicaciones de alcance impredecible, que se pudo evitar.

Son conocidos los movimientos militares realizados por los Estados Unidos y la OTAN en meses recientes hacia regiones adyacentes a la Federación de Rusia, precedidos de la entrega de armas modernas a Ucrania, lo que de conjunto equivale a un cerco militar progresivo.

No resulta posible examinar con rigor y honestidad la situación actual de Ucrania, sin valorar detenidamente los justos reclamos de la Federación de Rusia a los Estados Unidos y la OTAN y los factores que han conducido al uso de la fuerza y la no observancia de principios legales y normas internacionales que Cuba suscribe y respalda con todo vigor y son referencia imprescindible, particularmente para los países pequeños, contra el hegemónismo, los abusos de poder y las injusticias.

Cuba es un país defensor del Derecho Internacional y comprometido con la Carta de las Naciones Unidas, que siempre defenderá la paz y se opondrá al uso o amenaza de la fuerza contra cualquier Estado.

Lamentamos profundamente las pérdidas de vidas de civiles inocentes en Ucrania. El pueblo cubano ha tenido y tiene una relación entrañable con el pueblo ucraniano.

La historia exigirá responsabilidad al Gobierno de los Estados Unidos por las consecuencias de una doctrina militar crecientemente ofensiva fuera de las fronteras de la OTAN, que amenaza la paz, la seguridad y la estabilidad internacionales.

Se refuerzan nuestras preocupaciones con la decisión recién adoptada por la OTAN, de activar, por primera vez, la Fuerza de Respuesta de esa alianza militar.

Fue un error ignorar durante décadas los fundados reclamos de garantías de seguridad por parte de la Federación de Rusia y suponer que ese país permanecería inerte ante una amenaza directa a su seguridad nacional. Rusia tiene derecho a defenderse. No es posible conseguir la paz cercando ni acorralando a los Estados.

El proyecto de resolución sobre la situación en Ucrania no aprobado en el Consejo de Seguridad el 25 de febrero, que será presentado a la Asamblea General, no fue concebido como una contribución real a la búsqueda de soluciones a la actual crisis.

Por el contrario, se trata de un texto desbalanceado, que no toma en cuenta las legítimas preocupaciones de todas las partes involucradas. Tampoco se reconoce la responsabilidad de los

que instigaron o desplegaron acciones agresivas que precipitaron la escalada de este conflicto.

Abogamos por una solución diplomática seria, constructiva y realista de la actual crisis en Europa, por medios pacíficos, que garantice la seguridad y soberanía de todos, así como la paz, la estabilidad y la seguridad regional e internacional.

Cuba rechaza la hipocresía y el doble rasero. Debe recordarse que Estados Unidos y la OTAN en 1999 lanzaron una agresión de gran envergadura contra Yugoslavia, país europeo que fragmentaron, con un alto costo en vidas, en función de sus objetivos geopolíticos, desconociendo la Carta de la ONU.

Los Estados Unidos y algunos aliados han utilizado la fuerza en múltiples ocasiones. Invadieron Estados soberanos para provocar cambios de régimen e intervienen en los asuntos internos de otras naciones que no se pliegan a sus intereses de dominación y que defienden su integridad territorial e independencia.

Son también los responsables de la muerte de cientos de miles de civiles, que denominan «daños colaterales»; de millones de desplazados y de vasta destrucción en toda la geografía de nuestro planeta como resultado de sus guerras de rapiña.

La Habana, 26 de febrero de 2022

Fuente: Granma

## World condemnation for NATO

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bers are imprisoned, and some have died after torture and hunger strikes.

At a news conference in Moscow Feb. 21, visiting members of Grup Yorum declared their support for the people of Donbass in their fight against NATO imperialism and the far-right Ukrainian regime. Members said they would like to perform a solidarity concert there again, as they did in 2015.

The group opened its concert in Moscow Feb. 24 with these words: "We support the struggle of the people of Donbass against U.S. imperialism, against NATO, and against the fascist Ukrainian government. ... Even a rock thrown against imperialism is a forward action for the people."

The Communist Labor Party of Turkey/Leninist announced Feb. 24: "Our party, TKEP/Le-ninist, calls on all revolutionary, communist and progressive forces and the working class and oppressed peoples of the world to support both of these People's Republics [Dona-

tsk and Lugansk.] ... "The fact that the bourgeois government of Russia has been forced to support the People's Republics because of its national interests should not be cause for hesitation. Imperialist apologists in Turkey and around the world have, either using Russia as an excuse or with empty words, abandoned this internationalist duty and argued for remaining neutral.



PHOTO: LUGANSK INFORMATION CENTER  
Car rally in Democratic Republic of Congo in solidarity with Donbass and Russia, Feb. 22.

"If this operation ... against Ukrainian fascism and which boldly challenges U.S., British, and German imperialism is victorious, it will be an enormous source of morale and embolden the working class and the oppressed and exploited working peoples of the world."

Actions in support of Russia's recognition of the Donbass republics and the joint military operation have been held by movements in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Italy and Serbia. ☰

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